

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 11909 201207Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-14 /084 W

-----127866 201745Z /43

R 201153Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6286

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

UNCLAS LONDON 11909

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT MOVES TO INCREASE NI PARLIAMENTARY  
REPRESENTATION

REF: LONDON 11789

1. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE GEORGE THOMAS JULY 19 ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD CONVENE A MEETING OF A SPEAKERS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW NORTHERN IRELAND'S REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT ON JULY 27. THE 28-MEMBER CONFERENCE -- WHOSE DELIBERATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 6 MONTHS -- WILL "MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES THAT THERE SHOULD BE IN NI". IT IS EXPECTED TO RECOMMEND THAT NI'S REPRESENTATION BE INCREASED FROM THE PRESENT 14 SEATS TO 18 OR 19 SEATS.

2. ALL PARTIES, EXCEPT THE SCOTTISH AND WELSH NATIONALISTS, WILL BE REPRESENTED IN THE CONFERENCE. JAMES MOLYNEUX AND ENOCH POWELL HAVE BEEN NAMED TO REPRESENT THE ULSTER UNIONISTS, AND GERRY FITT WILL REPRESENT THE PREDOMINANTLY CATHOLIC SDLP. ONCE THE CONFERENCE HAS  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 11909 201207Z

REPORTED, LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE NEW CONSTITUENCIES WILL HAVE TO BE PASSED AND THE CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROCEDURE COMPLETED BEFORE THE NEW SEATS ARE ACTUALLY ALLOCATED. THE NEW MPS WILL NOT BE ELECTED UNTIL THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE ENTIRE PROCEDURE.

3. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT PLACED A HIGH PRIORITY ON  
GETTING THE SPEAKERS CONFERENCE UNDERWAY, AS IT BELIEVES  
THIS PROCESS WILL PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF AT LEAST  
6 UNIONIST VOTES FROM BEING CAST AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT  
ON CONFIDENCE ISSUES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE IMPLEMENTING  
LEGISLATION IS APPROVED. THAT IS LIKELY TO TAKE AT LEAST  
A YEAR. BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, MEETINGS  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, UK, (THOMAS, GEORGE), (MOLYNEAUX, JAMES), (POWELL, ENOCH)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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